

## Strangers and foreigners

I once heard a minister talk about how the Old Testament tribe of Israel was blessed and that outsiders were cursed, just because they were not born from the descendants of Abraham. I decided to do a study on this topic to find out if indeed, the New Testament was the first time that Gentiles could come to God and be blessed. Due to the large number of verses per topic, I have only listed the scripture references.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>References</u>
Descendants :	Gen 15:13 Gen 17:8 Exo 6:4 Deu 10:19 Act 13:17
Mistreating strangers :	Exo 22:21 Exo 23:9 Lev 19:33
Strangers as brethren :	Lev 19:34
Lord and Angels :	Matt 25:35, 38, 43, 44 Heb 13:2
Sojourners :	Lev 25:23 1Chr 29:15 Psa 39:12 Jer 14:8-9 Heb 11:13-16 1Pet 2:11
Strangers are citizens :	Eph 2:19-22
Circumcision :	Gen 17:12, 14, 26, 27
Passover :	Exo 12:3-4, 12-13, 18-19, 43-44, 48
Sabbath day :	Exo 20:10 Exo 23:12
City of refuge :	Num 35:15 Jos 20:9
Unintentional sin :	Num 15:26
Offering and sacrifice :	Lev 17:8, 12 Lev 22:18 Num 15:13
Idolatry punished :	Eze 14:7
Prayer in Temple :	1Kin 8:41-43 also in 2Chr 6:32-33
Laws of God :	Lev 18:26 Num 19:10 Deu 31:10-13 Jos 8:35 Jer 22:3
Sanctuary :	Eze 44:9
Inheritance :	Eze 47:22-23
10 Lepers cleansed :	Luk 17:18
God loves strangers :	Deu 10:18 Ruth 2:10-12 Psa 146:9
One law for All :	Exo 12:49 Lev 24:22 Num 9:14 Num 15:15-16 Num 15:29
God's Invitation to All :	I sa 55:1-3 I sa 56:2-8 Rom 9:6-8, 15-16, 25-26 Rom 9:30-32 Eph 2:12

It came as a surprise to me to discover that from the beginning; before Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, if a stranger would submit to the commands of God, they would be blessed accordingly. Obedience is more important to God than birthright. In these 'Good old days', The Lord was ruling over His people as their God, King and Protector. Moses said they had one of two choices to make either : -

Obey God and be blessed - OR - Disobey God and be cursed.

These choices are still offered to us today. We can still choose 'Life in Christ' and be blessed in abundance or die in our sin.